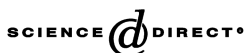




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Preface

This special issue of Discrete Applied Mathematics contains papers presented at the 2000 Com²MaC (Combinatorial and Computational Mathematics Center) “The Com²MaC Workshop on Cryptography” held at Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), Pohang, Korea, during June 26–28, 2000.

The aims of the conference were: To bring together students and experts in number theory and cryptography. To exchange information and to give reports on the state-of-the art and new results in cryptography and its relation with algebraic number theory. To encourage and stimulate further research concerning the security and implementation of cryptosystems and related areas. To encourage collaboration between mathematicians, computer scientists and engineers in the academic, industry and government sectors.

Our workshop was part of a major effort on the part of Com²MaC to promote and support high quality research within the fields of Computational Mathematics. Our deepest gratitude goes to the director, Jin-Ho Kwak, and the steering committee of Com²MaC for the generous support of this workshop. The editors sincerely thank staff and students of the center who have helped in the planning of the workshop, and in doing the day-to-day work which was needed for holding the workshop. Many thanks go to Prof. Sung-Yell Song in Iowa State University and Doctoral student EunJeong Lee who put a lot of effort into preparing these proceedings.

We would also like to acknowledge the Korean Science and Engineering Foundation of POSTECH, and the Mathematics Department of POSTECH, for their financial support. Without their support, organizing a workshop of this magnitude would have been difficult and, of course, the present collection of articles would not have been realized.

Our special thanks go to all of the speakers of the workshop. Their assistance and presence really helped make this workshop a great success. Last, but not least, we extend our thanks to the large number of participants who took part in the workshop. The support and encouragement offered by them was enormous and contributed a great deal towards the success of the workshop.

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